1. **Title:**

Understanding Pathways to Agroecological Change in Southeast Asia: Exploring Adaptive Spaces

1. **Convenors:**

**Gerben Nooteboom**, Department of Anthropology, University of Amsterdam (UvA), g.nooteboom@uva.nl

**John F McCarthy**, Resources Environment and Development (RE&D) program,Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific, The Australian National University john.mccarthy@anu.edu.au

**Jean-Christophe Castella**, French National Research Institute on Sustainable Development (IRD), Montpellier, France, j.castella@ird.fr

**Brief description and background of the panel:**

As the climate crisis unfolds across Asia, agricultural systems are changing rapidly, and the livelihoods of rural communities are in transition. Advocates of climate change adaptation variously promote the adoption of agroecological practices, regenerative and climate-smart agriculture as alternatives to the industrial food production system and as a means to provide resilience to future shocks, and mitigate the impacts of climatic variations. However, to what degree do such approaches take into account the complex entanglements of social, cultural, economic, and political change that, alongside increasing climatic variability, are driving agrarian change pathways? Do the different knowledge claims and practices supported by social movements, policy makers and donors provide a means to answer the combined crisis of natural resource degradation, climate change and food and nutrition security?

**Brief description of the setup of the panel:**

This panel invites presenters to explore how climate change adaptation approaches seek to address the critical livelihood and food security issues marginal groups face in Southeast Asia. We aim to bring together people working on agrarian change, agroecology, food sovereignty, and adaptation to climate change. How can we best explore the ‘adaptive spaces’ where many of us work? What is happening? What choices are people making? What are the main pathways and options? What is needed to support transitions to more sustainable livelihoods? What are enabling contexts, organisations, and interventions? We invite to present empirical case studies from across Southeast Asia on farmer groups, social movements and (local) governments who are navigating agrarian change, dealing with the climate crisis through diversification, migration, agroecology and adaptation to climate change from below.

1. **Double session:**

We request a double session of 6 - 8 presentations. The panel is based on ongoing, joint and collaborative research with researchers from Indonesia, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand, Australia, France, Germany, and The Netherlands. Next to network partners, we aim to invite other speakers and young scholars to present their work based in this panel. We warmly invite scholars from Southeast Asia and aim to bring together presentations which cherish cross county comparisons and analytical approaches based on original empirical findings.